(a) whether it is a fact that preventive teams of Central Excise Department are not allowed to visit factories without proper authorisation from higher authorities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that preventive teams of Central Excise Departments in Thane- Belapur belt of Mumbai are unauthorisedly visiting foctories and harassing the onwers; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Preventive teams comprising Superintendent and Inspectors are authorised by law to visit factories for checking, except that in case of Small Scale factory, visit can be done only with prior authorisation from an officer not below the rank of an Asistant Commissioner of Central Excise.

(b) No such complaint of such harassment has been received from the owners of the factories from this area.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of used cars and Excise on Indigenously Manufactured cars

†3271. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) wheter it is a fact that Government are considering to lift ban on large scale import of used cars from other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time by when the said decision would be taken and the rate of customs duty proposed to be imposed;

(c) whether Government propose to decrease the excise duty on indigenously manufactured cars in order to decrease the prices of Indian Cars in this situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Import of cars including used cars are presently restricted under the Export and Import Policy. As per India's

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

international commitments, all quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payment reasons are required to be removed by 1st April, 2001. However, imports of cars would still be subject to applicable rates of customs duty, technical standards, environmental and safety norms to be decided in this regard in due course. Presently import of motor cars attracts a total import duty incidence of 101.66% ad valorem.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no proposal to reduce the excise duty on indigenously manufactured cars. The level of excise duty is decided taking into account factors pike nature of goods, class of consumers, etc.,

Industrial and Infrastructural Investment in the Country

3272. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of industrial and infrastructural investment in the country during the last three years; and

(b) whether it is a fact that such investment is showing a downward trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) the trends of investment as a percentage of Gross Fixed Capital Formation at current prices in major industry and services sectors are indicated below:

	Industry	96-97	97-98	98-99
1.	Agriculture	7.2	7.8	7.9
2.	Industry*	56.2	58.9	58.1
3.	Services	36.6	33.3	34.1
	(i) trade	2.5	2.5	2.6
	(ii) transport	10.7	10.1	9.5
	(iii) financing	12.3	12.3	12.1
	(iv) community	11.1	8.4	9.9
	TOTAL	100	100	100

*industry includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply and construction.

Source: Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)